

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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P R 270841Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6790

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (FINDLEY, PAUL)

SUBJECT: CODEL FINDLEY'S VISIT TO THE ROC

1. SUMMARY: DURING AN AUGUST 25 OVERNIGHT STOP IN TAIPEI TO JOIN UP WITH CODEL ADDABBO, CONGRESSMAN PAUL FINDLEY MET BRIEFLY WITH AMBASSADOR UNGER AND ATTENDED (WITH HIS WIFE) A DINNER HOSTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CHANG-HUAN IN HONOR OF CODEL ADDABBO. CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY ALSO HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 25 IN WHICH HE ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS PRESENT. ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 26 CODEL FINDLEY DEPARTED FOR THE US TOGETHER WITH CODEL ADDABBO. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AUGUST 25, IMMEDIATELY PRECEEDING THE DINNER HOSTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CHANG-HUAN, CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY MET BRIEFLY WITH AMBASSADOR UNGER FOR AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION AT THE PRESIDENT HOTEL. DURING THIS MEETING, FINDLEY DEVOTED MOST OF HIS TIME TO GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO THE PRC BUT ALSO BRIEFLY EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS ON CHINA POLICY.

3. NOTING THAT HE HAD BEEN PERHAPS THE FIRST CONGRESSMAN TO ADVOCATE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE PRC (IN 1966), FINDLEY SAID HE STILL BELIEVED AS POSSIBLE ALTHOUGH HE HAD DETECTED NO IMPATIENCE ON PEKING'S PART. HE SAID

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HE REALIZED THAT THERE WAS NO EASY ANSWER TO THE TAIWAN

QUESTION. HE DETECTED NO GREAT PRESSURE AMONG THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC BUT, HE ADDED, IT MADE SENSE IN BIG POWER TERMS.

4. AMBASSADOR UNGER AGREED THAT THERE WAS NO EASY WAY TO RESOLVE THE TAIWAN QUESTION BUT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT NORMALIZATION WITH PEKING COULD BE ACHIEVED IN A WAY THAT WOULD PERMIT THE ROC TO CONTINUE AS STABLE AND VIABLE ENTITY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE TAIWAN QUESTION WAS SOLVED BY BOTH CHINESE PARTIES CONCERNED.

5. AT CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY'S REQUEST, USIS ARRANGED A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR HIM. THE CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN FINDLEY'S HOTEL ROOM AFTER SHEN'S DINNER AND WAS ATTENDED BY UPI, APT, AND CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY REPORTERS. DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, FINDLEY DISTRIBUTED A PREPARED STATEMENT (TEXT CONTAINED SEPTEL) AND RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

A. HE WAS THE FIRST U.S. CONGRESSMAN TO RECOMMEND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING AND WELCOMED THE CHANCE TO VISIT THE MAINLAND. HE SAW A GREAT DEAL IN CHINA; EVERYONE WAS FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL AND HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE STRIDES BEING MADE THERE. THE PRC IS A "GREAT NATION". TAIWAN IS ALSO A "GREAT NATION" AND ALTHOUGH HIS STAY HERE WAS VERY BRIEF THE GREAT PROGRESS UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES WAS ENTIRELY EVIDENT.

B. HE DIDN'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THE PUZZLE OF HOW TO SOLVE THE CHINA PROBLEM. ONE STUMBLING BLOCK IS THE FACT THAT THE TAIPEI GOVERNMENT CLAIMS TO REPRESENT ALL OF CHINA WHILE THIS IS OBVIOUSLY NOT THE CASE.

C. HE DID NOT MEET WITH MAO OR CHOU IN CHINA BUT HELD SEVERAL TALKS WITH VICE PREMIER TENG AND OTHER OFFICIALS THERE. HE FOUND THEIR PRIMARY CONCERN TO BE THE PRESSURE FROM THE SOVIET UNION. THEY MENTIONED THE U.S. PRESENCE IN TAIWAN, INCLUDING FORCES, BUT DID NOT PRESS THE ISSUE OR COME BACK TO IT ALTHOUGH THEY HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.

D. THE PRESSURE FROM THE SOVIETS, THROUGHOUT THIS REGION AND THE WORLD, WAS THE MAIN REASON FOR A CONVERGENCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF U.S.-PRC INTERESTS AT THIS TIME. THERE ARE NO ILLUSIONS ON EITHER SIDE, RATHER IT IS A MATTER OF PRACTICAL INTERESTS. THE PRC IS OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN SEEING THE U.S. MAINTAIN A SUBSTANTIAL PRESENCE IN ASIA AND ELSEWHERE.

E. HE DECLINED TO EXPRESS AN OPINION ON U.S. FORCES STRENGTH IN TAIWAN SINCE HE HAD NOT TALKED WITH "OUR MILITARY PEOPLE HERE" BUT ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD

THAT IT WAS A MINIMUM FORCE. IN ANY EVENT THERE WAS LITTLE CHANCE OF AN ACTUAL CONFRONTATION WITH OPPOSING FORCES "AS IS ALWAYS THE CASE IN KOREA."

F. HE THOUGHT THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S PEKING VISIT WOULD BE MOSTLY "CEREMONIAL" AND THAT THE AGENDA WOULD NOT INCLUDE MUCH OF SUBSTANCE; HE ADDED THAT HE WAS ONLY GUESSING AND HAD NO HARD INFORMATION.

G. PRESSED TO SAY WHETHER THE U.S. WOULD PROCEED IN ITS EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE PRC AT THE EXPENSE OF TAIWAN, HE NOTED THAT TAIPEI'S CLAIM TO REPRESENT ALL OF CHINA WAS A SPECIFIC PROBLEM (SIC).

H. ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF TAIWAN DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY HE NOTED THAT EACH COUNTRY MUST DO WHAT IT THINKS PROPER FOR ITS OWN GOOD AND HE DID NOT WANT TO BE IN THE POSITION OF TELLING TAIWAN HOW TO HANDLE ITS AFFAIRS.

I. HE SAID HE HOPED TO COME BACK TO TAIWAN IN THE FUTURE FOR A LONGER VISIT.

6. WHILE NOTING FINDLEY'S ARRIVAL TO JOIN CODEL ADDABBO, THE CHINESE LANGUAGE PRESS MADE NO REFERENCE TO FINDLEY'S PRESS CONFERENCE OR STATEMENT. ONLY THE AUGUST 26 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS CARRIED LIMITED EXCERPTS FROM FINDLEY'S PRESS STATEMENT BURIED DEEP IN AN ARTICLE ON CODEL ADDABBO. UNGER

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